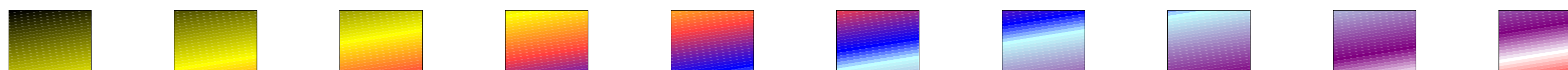


Distributed Centers Requirements and Opportunities



SUNSET

Finally, your distributed center status and associated responsibilities do not last forever. The program has a sunset policy that will provide for your site's "decommissioning" as a distributed center.

The normal period of performance for a distributed center is the remainder of the fiscal year after deployment of a system procured with HPCMP-provided funds and the following three full fiscal years. (The figure, below, illustrates the time line.) Program requirements, as determined by the HPCMP Director may, in rare instances, extend that period. Otherwise, distributed centers are transitioned automatically at the end of the third full fiscal year following deployment of a new or upgraded system funded by the HPCMP.

"Decommissioning" releases the site from HPCMP oversight and the transition from active distributed center status confers a number of benefits on the affected host site and the HPCMP in general. The host organization is relieved of the responsibilities outlined in the terms of reference that funded the DC. The program office is relieved of data collection and oversight responsibilities, and avoids a proliferation of DCs not providing leading edge high performance computing resources.

Besides these benefits, there is relatively little change in the site's association with the program. Former centers, at their discretion, may continue to support established external customers and may continue to derive benefit from HPCMP participation to the extent that limited resources permit. Former centers may still participate on advisory panels and working groups. They may still attend HPCMP-sponsored workshops, symposia, and the like. The program office may still accept "success stories" from former DCs. Former centers remain eligible for future competitive selection and grants under the HPCMP. Successful development and transition of mature DC capabilities are considered strong positive factors in future DC selections.

